



Southeast News

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What's Good About Good Friday?



By S. L. JOHNSON

To the little group of faithful disciples, that Friday was black and BAD. Our agonizing questions and perplexities remain. Why does God permit the suffering of the innocent? Why is the life of a lovely little child snuffed out like the light of a candle? Why this? Why that?

We don't know now, nor can we know, until we move by FAITH from Good Friday to the dawn of the Easter Day, when as disciples, we realize that Christ obtained the sure victory. When you and I recognize that God has a reason for all things and will bring good out of evil just as He brought Resurrection out of the Cross, then we are truly Christians, with firm faith and a steady trust in God and His love.

You and I live on this earth according to our beliefs. A person who believes his life is going to be extinguished as the atom bomb incinerates is not going to concern himself very much about eternal values. If annihilation is the ultimate destiny of each of us, why bother about honesty, kindness, or love?

On the other hand, if we are sons of God, in Christ, we have a great and noble destiny. Because of our belief in eternal life, we seek to live nobly, acting decently, being honest, kind, and loving; being careful not to willfully hurt our loving God, our Father.

It is easy to show our concern for those

A POEM FOR THE EASTER SEASON

(Composed by Judson P. Watson of Lusk, Wyoming, friend of A. R. Van Cleave)

There were seven fishers with nets in their hands
And they walked and talked by the seaside sands;
Yet sweet as the sweet dew-fall
The words they spake — though they spake so low,
Across the long, dim centuries flow,
And we know them one and all —
Aye! Know them and love them all.
Seven sad men in the days of old,
And one was gentle, and one was bold,
And they walked with downcast eyes;
The bold was Peter, the gentle was John,
They were all sad for their Lord was gone,
And they knew not if he would rise—
Knew not if the dead would rise.

The livelong night till the moon went out
In the drowning waters they beat about;
Beat slow through the fog their way,
And the sails dropped down with wringing wet

And no man drew but an empty net
And now 'twas the break of day —
The great, glad break of day.

"Cast in your nets on the other 'side'"
('twas Jesus speaking across the tide)
And they cast and were pulling hard;
But that Disciple whom Jesus loved
Cried straightway out for his heart was moved:

(Continued on Pg. 6)

millions of nameless faces and bodies who live in India or Africa or in remote spots of the globe. It is difficult to respond in a Christian manner to all the people, friends or enemies we meet in our day-to-day activities. "If any one says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen." I John 4:20.

Each new day can become an EASTER within you if you will just allow the spirit of the living Christ to enter and rule your heart.

Fighting Hunger At The Grass Roots



Dick Fagen and two Filipino pastors inspecting young rice plants.

Missionary Dick Fagen, director of the National Rural Life Center in Manila, capital city of the Philippines, is helping Filipinos to fight hunger by developing a source of good poultry, swine, milch goats, and dairy cattle. The center also serves as a training center for rural-life promotional workers, pastors, and laymen.

Much of the livestock which forms the base for the center's operation comes through Heifer Project, Inc., to which the United Church Board for World Ministries has given \$75,000 this year. The HPI process is one useful way to multiply the effect of our gifts. When animals or fowl are received through this program the farmer agrees that the first offspring will be passed along to someone else.

Improving and increasing the Philippine rice crop is another important contribution of the Center. In the picture you see Dick Fagen and two Filipino pastors inspecting young rice plants. Pastors often double as "County Agents" in rural areas, helping their parishioners to improve their physical as well as their spiritual life. In addition to directing the center, Dick works part-time in agricultural extension work with the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction. Dick and his wife, Marvel Jean, have worked in the Philippines under team appointment by our United Church Board for World Ministries since 1956.

HERE AND THERE IN THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

Rev. and Mrs. Henry W. Tuttle and daughter Sheryl moved into the parsonage of the Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, Ala., on January 15, 1975, and began their ministry there the following week. Mr. Tuttle's Installation Service will be April 20, 1975, in the evening.

Conference Minister W. J. Andes, attended the Council of Conference Executives and the Council on Mission Priorities in Orlando, Fla., the week of January 27. Mrs. Andes accompanied him to Florida. Mrs. Jackie Shrago, of the Brookmeade Church, Nashville, attended the Council on Mission Priorities. Mr. Andes attended the meeting of the Stewardship Council in Philadelphia, February 17-18, 1975.

Rev. David Langerhans, of the Stewardship Council, Philadelphia, met with the Board of Directors of the SE Conference February 10, and then with the Outreach Commission the night of Feb. 10 and morning of Feb. 11, 1975. He will be assisting the Commission in the development of a Stewardship Program for the Conference. He and the Commission will meet again in June to continue their work.

Rev. Paul Gregory, General Secretary and Regional Secretary, Pacific Area of the Board for World Ministries, spoke in churches in Southern Alabama Area, February 14-21, 1975.

Rev. Dick Griffis of the Office for Church Life and Leadership, was leader for the third training session of Local Church Consultants at Camp Calvin, Feb. 21-23, 1975. Having been trained in Faith Exploration, Strengthening the local Church by Planning Process, the Consultants were trained in Evangelism at this session. Dr. David Beebe, coordinator of the Commission on Church and Ministry, assisted Mr. Griffis.

Mrs. Trudi Sanford, Chairman of the Committee on Christian Education of Georgia-South Carolina Association, attended a Consultation for managers of the Local Church Project in Columbus, Ohio, February 26-27, 1975. The Office for Church Life and Leadership sought to evaluate past results and establish goals for the future for Local Church Consultants.

Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, Area Minister for Southern Alabama, attended a Conference for New Conference Staff in Ohio March 4-6, 1975. This was made possible by the Office for Church Life and

Leadership.

Rev. John DeBoer, of the Board for Homeland Ministries, will be in Atlanta the week of March 10, 1975, to discuss the possibility of a new church in Atlanta within the next year or so.

Robert E. Koenig, Board for Homeland Ministries, will be the leader of the Curriculum Workshop, Camp Sumatanga, March 14-16, 1975.

Rev. and Mrs. David W. Shepherd, now retired and living in Aberdeen, N. C., moved to Huntsville, Ala., March 15, to serve as interim pastor of the United Church of Huntsville. They will live in the parsonage but they do not plan to serve more than six months as interim. Dr. Shepherd has served as pastor of churches in Southeast Conference, as well as the Florida and Southern Conferences. He also served as pastor-at-large of churches in this area.

Rev. Percel Alston, of the Board for Homeland Ministries, will be visiting several black churches March 25-27 to discuss with them their programs and hopes for the future.

The Rev. Miss Lela Anderson, now retired and living in Illinois, will be in the Southeast Conference April 10-24, and will be available for speaking engagements.

The Rev. Walter Snowa, missionary to Micronesia, will be available to churches April 25-28. If your church desires to have either of these guests, contact Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, P. O. Box 773, Phenix City, Ala. 36867. (Phone: 205-297-8163).

Wallace Boothby, moderator of Southeast Conference, is a member of the Program Committee for the 10th General Synod, to be held in Minneapolis, June 27-July 1, 1975. He promises an exciting program at Synod.

Roland Kampmeier, member of Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga, is chairman of a Committee on World Hunger, appointed by Dr. Robert Moss, president of the United Church of Christ. This committee will make their report to the 10th General Synod.

Delegates from the Southeast Conference to the 10th General Synod are: Wallace Boothby of Birmingham, Frederick Jefferson of Atlanta, and David Chandler, of LaGrange, Ga.

Summary of 1974 Financial Statement

INCOME:

Our Christian World Mission (Basic):

Alabama-Tennessee	\$32,599.63
North Alabama	891.00
Central Alabama	1,234.00
East Alabama	7,633.60
S. Alabama-NW Florida	1,645.00
Georgia-South Carolina	21,869.52
	<hr/>
	\$65,872.75

Other	13,216.26
17-76 Campaign Fund	1,075.00
SOUTHEAST NEWS	\$ 412.00
Interest	935.10
Rent	1,140.00
Aided Fields, BHM	13,350.00
Identity Program, BHM	750.00
Faith Exploration (LL&W)	880.70
Association Dues	773.08
Credits & Refunds	2,784.45
To SE Conf. for Specifics	13,559.56
Ministers' Health Insurance	13,040.50
Restricted Accounts	1,008.14
Transfers In	8,224.12
Total Income	<hr/>
	\$137,021.66

DISBURSEMENTS:

Our Christian World Mission, to UCC Treasurer:	
Basic	\$16,510.34
Other	13,216.26
17-76 Campaign Fund	1,075.00
Programs of the Conference	\$17,588.98
Projects of the Conference	28,942.41
Salaries of the Conference	20,271.36
Other Expenses	6,766.31
Miscellaneous & Contingency	5,497.77
Ministers' Health Insurance	12,691.00
Summer Camp 1974	2,172.44
From Restricted Accounts	2,477.52
Transfers Out	8,232.12
Total Disbursements	<hr/>
	\$135,441.51
Balance, Checking Acct., Dec. 31, 1974	23,569.74

ABBREVIATED SUMMARY OF 1975 BUDGET

Income:

O. C. W. M.	\$70,000
Southeast News	400
Interest	800
Aided Fields	9,675
Faith Exploration (CLL)	500
New Community of Faith (BHM)	1,000
Stewardship Council	2,000
Association Dues & Other Income	800
Total Income	<hr/>
	\$85,175

Expenditures:

O. C. W. M.	\$17,500
Conference Programs	11,850
Conference Projects	25,800
Salaries and Benefits	23,760
Other Conference Expenses	6,265
Total Expenditures	<hr/>
	\$85,175

Calendar Of — EVENTS —

- Feb. 21-23: Local Church Consultants at Camp Calvin, Lovejoy, Ga.
 Feb. 28-March 1: Planning Conference, Southern Ala. Area Council, near Montgomery at a place to be designated.
 March 7 - World Day of Prayer
 March 9 - One Great Hour of Sharing
 March 14-16 - Curriculum Workshop, Camp Sumatanga, Gallant, Ala.
 March 23 - Palm Sunday. The 17-76 Achievement Fund Campaign should be concluded by this time in local churches. Beginning of Holy Week.
 March 30 - Easter Sunday
 April 12 - Southern Alabama Area Council, Montgomery.
 April 18-20 - Youth Camp at Camp Tim-poochee, Florida.
 May 5-8 - Ministers and Wives Convocation, Camp Sumatanga, Gallant, Ala.
 June 7-8 - Annual meeting of Southeast Conference, Chattanooga Pilgrim Church. Guest Speaker: David Stowe, Board for World Ministries.
 June 14 - Alabama Women's Fellowship, Wadley, Ala.
 June 27-July 1 - 10th General Synod, Minneapolis, Minn.

Act Now - Protect Your Church Funds

The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries (UCBHM) recently announced a new service to local congregations of the United Church of Christ. Beginning January 1, 1975, your congregation can be insured against misappropriation of funds up to \$10,000 (subject to a \$100 deductible for each loss) in return for a minimal nine dollar (\$9.00) premium.

The importance of bonding church officers, committee persons, and employees cannot be overstated. Every congregation, no matter how small, can now protect itself against the rare, but often disastrous, occurrence of misappropriation of funds. By joining in this UCBHM bonding program, the protection can be obtained at a fraction of the cost usually paid.

Church officers may obtain a copy of the application-audit form from the conference office. The completed form, together with \$9.00, should be sent immediately to:
 UCBHM Bonding Program
 Attention: Mrs. Ruth Bethell
 287 Park Avenue South
 New York, New York 10010

Churches which desire a premium quotation for more than this minimal \$10,000 coverage should write to the bonding agent: B. H. M. Bonding Program, P. O. Box 239, Armonk, New York 10504. For further information, contact Mr. Nils Forstner at the board's New York office.



Concerning The Church Today

By H. W. Tuttle

Pastor, Birmingham Pilgrim Church

After 24 years in the parish ministry, in churches large and small, I remain convinced that the local church is a vital and urgently important institution. It has withstood the many advances of new theologies and life patterns. It has experimented with new worship forms and embraced many issues. All of these things have had effect. Some good, others not too helpful; but in the end, it is still the family of God — the one place where men and women may come together for worship, encouragement and healing in an atmosphere of trust and joy.

Even though I recognize its many failings, the local church is still the seed bed of all Conference and denominational fruits. Without such support, the fruits would wither on the vine and nothing of consequence would occur. But having stated this, I also strongly feel that the local church cannot manage adequately without the conferences, the instrumentalities and the denomination. All of these act for and with each local church making mission possible and supplying the expertise necessary if we are to grow in strength and effectiveness during this present time. There are always new problems, new challenges, new opportunities; but we must work them through together.

Opportunity To Tour England

"The S. L. Johnsons invite you to join them in an adventure: a visit to some of the major castles and cathedrals in England, leaving New York September 1.

For further information, write: Dr. S. L. Johnson, 1430 John Wesley Circle, Birmingham, Alabama 35210, or phone 205-591-6261."

Pastor Beebe Looks To 1975

At the annual Meeting in Chattanooga, Pilgrim Church, the pastor, David Beebe, suggested the following projects for 1975:

1. A planning session soon for church council and deacons.

2. The development of an Outreach Committee; increase publicity to develop more community attraction to our church and to increase membership.

3. Development of a Parish Fellowship Committee to increase spiritual and personal care of our members and to encourage acquaintance. I hope that through the Adult Fellowship, as well as Pilgrim Youth, Pilgrim Guild, and Couples' Group, and through planned church-wide activities and meals, we may become a closer family.

4. Develop one major social action project this year.

5. Early in the year, I would like the Canvass Committee to make plans for a complete Every Member Enlistment, drawing upon this year's successful Enlistment experience.

6. The membership roll needs to be revised. Urge out of town members to become active in their local churches.

7. The Stewardship program, through Moments of Concern, increasing use of A. D. magazine, more involvement on Association and Conference levels of more of our members, needs to acquaint our members more thoroughly with the structure and mission of the United Church of Christ.

8. The church, together with First Congregational, has undertaken the major task of hosting the June Southeast Conference meeting. Involvement in this comes shortly.

9. I hope the church will actively support the 17-76 Achievement Fund Campaign.

10. We should continue to provide neighborly care and aid in the relocation and revitalization of First Congregational Church.

J.C. Dollar on Home For Children Staff

J. C. Dollar, who will be graduated from Southeastern Baptist Seminary at Wake Forest in May, joined the staff of the Home for Children as Supervisor of Campus Life January 1, 1975.

J. C. was born in Kentucky and grew up in Lanett, Alabama. He attended Auburn University for two years and then transferred to Elon College, where he received the B. A. degree. He is married to the former Carol Still of Huguley, Ala., and they have one son, Scott, 17 months old, who is named for the late Dr. W. T. Scott, development associate for two years before his death on July 17, 1972.

Where Is Uplands?

UPLANDS is located on the Cumberland Plateau in East Tennessee in the community of Pleasant Hill about halfway between Nashville to the west and Knoxville to the east. UPLANDS has two lakes, about 500 acres of mountain land at a mean altitude of 2,000 feet. Crossville, the county seat of Cumberland County, is located ten miles away and offers fine shopping facilities and a fine medical center. Cumberland County has long been a resort area, complete with golf courses, mountain cabins, and ski slopes.

BELONGING TO UPLANDS MEANS:

A. Belonging to Uplands community makes one eligible to call upon UPLANDS for maintenance, housekeeping, and nurse call services at nominal (cost plus 10 percent) fees. All others will pay cost plus 100 percent.

B. Belonging to UPLANDS community gives one priority in the Wharton Nursing Home if the need arises.

C. Belonging to UPLANDS community gives a member-patient a discount of 10 percent on current room rates at Wharton Home and on all stocked drugs.

D. Belonging to UPLANDS community gives one the privilege of participating in all the activities of UPLANDS Retirement Center and the use of all recreational and park facilities either free or at the cost plus 10 percent fee that may occasionally be levied.

E. Belonging to UPLANDS community gives one the privilege of knowing that he or she is participating in a growing retirement community and carrying a share of the responsibility for that growth.

F. Belonging to UPLANDS community gives one the right to request to be listed as a participant in any future insurance programs written to care for the increasing needs of the community.

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New Orleans Pastor To Staff Of Pension Boards



Rev. William T. Green

The Rev. William T. Green, pastor of Central Congregational Church, U. C. C., New Orleans, has been named to the national staff of the denomination to serve as Ministerial Assistance Secretary of the Pension Boards, beginning February 1, 1975.

Mr. Green has been pastor of Central Church in New Orleans since 1961. He also taught religion at Xavier University and served as Assistant Dean of Students, Dean of Chapel and Lecturer in Religion at Dillard University.

"Alive!" Spotlight For Easter

"ALIVE!" An exciting, colorful, new filmstrip will relate the meaning of Easter in a way that children, youth and adults can all understand. It will help you to see the impact of Christ's Resurrection in all the world today and will help you to feel the power of the Risen Christ in your life as well.

"ALIVE!" is a 15-minute filmstrip with a recording for the narration and a variety of Easter music. Order a copy for your congregation. Price, \$12.00. Order from:

The Office for Audio-Visuals
United Church of Christ
1505 Race Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19102

Elon Home For Children

A memorial gift to the Elon Home for Children, Elon College, N. C., is a wonderful way to remember some loved one who has died. An honorarium is a means of paying tribute to someone still living. The Home sends an appropriate card to the family of the deceased or the honored person and also a copy to the donor.

Spotlight: What Can I Do To Help?

World hunger is a scary reality. It is a term which brings to mind visions of begging hands and empty bowls, gaunt faces and swollen bellies. Almost always we visualize starving people in an overseas setting. We don't like to think about it, but there is severe malnutrition in the United States as well. And there is a real danger of starvation, too, both in our largest cities and in our rural areas.

In the cities, one can easily document many cases of poverty programs which haven't worked as planned. There may be a "hotline" to the state capitol on which to report the need for food stamps, but too often these requests get tangled up in endless red tape or lost in the morass of bureaucracy. School lunch programs often provide the only wholesome meal of the day for children both in inner-city and suburban ghettos.

In rural areas, too, in the isolated communities of Appalachian hill country, in small half-forgotten fishing villages of the Gulf coast, in over-farmed and under-fertilized cotton lands, and in remote communities of western Indian reservations, American people are going hungry this winter.

You can establish a food bank in your local church, working with others in your community — school health authorities, for instance — to search out and overcome cases of malnutrition. You can work politically at community, county, state, and national levels to smooth out the rough spots in poverty programs which still leave many of your fellow citizens hungry. You can, through your increased giving to Our Christian World Mission, support the efforts of your denominational agencies which are at work in the U. S. A.

In Atlanta, for example, churches are asking their members to bring at least one can of food a month to help create a supply for hungry people.

17/76 - Why Support The A.M.A. Colleges?

In supporting the six A. M. A. colleges, we are underwriting the colleges which through all of their history have been making a unique contribution to the education of the economically deprived, with their doors open to both black and white. The present economic situation, which increases the problems of all educational institutions, greatly increases the problem for the predominantly black colleges and the pressure on its slim resources for student financial aid. Our basic asking is for \$180 (one share) or \$5.00 per month for a three-year period. Most United Church of Christ families can manage such a contribution.

Watch The People: Watch The People Starve

Several years ago British scientist and novelist C. P. Snow warned us about what was coming. "Many millions of people in the poor countries," he said, "are going to starve to death before our eyes. We will see them doing so on our television sets!"

From every news media today we are receiving the message: people all around the world are starving, starving now. In the judgment of United Nations experts, thirty-two countries today are so poor and so short of food that crop failures and high prices of grain, fertilizer, and petroleum now threaten them with bankruptcy and their people with starvation.

The dimensions of this disaster are staggering. The most dangerous threat is to life itself for over 700 million people! By conservative estimates, over 400 million of these people were already suffering from malnutrition even before last year's crop failures and price increases. Today, many experts say that the malnourished of the world number 300 million more than the 700 million who are now on the verge of starvation — altogether at least one billion people! Most of them live in countries which are least able to afford to import food to relieve their suffering.

The OGH-SOS annual lenten appeal, which comes March 9, this year, will enable our United Church Board for World Ministries to participate in a variety of projects which fight hunger around the world. The board is currently engaged in agricultural work in Greece, Botswana, Ghana, Malagasy, Malawi, Niger, Rhodesia, Tanzania, Togo, India, Bangladesh, Burma, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, the Caribbean, Mexico, Peru, and — through a grant which the UCBWM gives to the national Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. — here in the United States as well.

The Importance Of Black Colleges

According to United Negro College Fund statistics, Black colleges have educated 75 per cent of black Ph. D.'s, 85 per cent of black physicians, 80 per cent of black federal judges, 75 per cent of black armed forces officers and most black elected officials. The six American Missionary Association Colleges are members of U. N. C. F....One-third of all Black practicing attorneys in Mississippi are graduates of Tougaloo College. The Tougaloo art collection, begun only eleven years ago, now houses the finest collection of prints in the state.

SPECIAL ISSUE —

The April, 1975 issue of YOUTH magazine has as its theme: "Asian Americans" and tells of their struggle to regain their history and identity. Cost is 50c per copy, or \$40.00 per 100 copies.



Miss Muzoffer Kurkcü and first-year students of the Gaziantep Private Health School.

Talking Turkey About Educating Nurses

One year ago a new school of nursing opened in Gaziantep, Turkey. The Gaziantep Private Health School, related to the Gaziantep American Hospital, is the first school of its kind to be sponsored by a non-governmental agency in Turkey.

In Turkey, registered nurses, who must be graduates of the lycee' or high school, usually serve in supervisory positions. This results in a shortage of nurses qualified for regular hospital duties. The new school will help to overcome this shortage by providing professional nursing education for girls between the ages of 15 and 18 who are graduates of primary schools. The new school will provide the equivalent of a junior high school education in Turkish and in cultural subjects and will present concentrated professional training and practical experience in nursing skills. At the end of three years of training, the girls will receive a government-authorized certificate of nursing qualifying them for floor duties in Turkish hospitals.

Through your support of Our Christian World Mission you provide nearly \$17,000 this year for missionary support at the Gaziantep American Hospital.

A Gain In Giving To Basic OCWM

The Southeast Conference sent to the treasurer of the United Church of Christ on Basic Support for- 1974, \$16,454.14 in undesignated funds and \$56.20 in designated funds, with \$9.44 going to BWM, making a total of \$16,519.78 sent in 1974. This was 25 per cent, while the conference received \$49,362.41, or 75 per cent, making a total of National and Conference, \$65,882.19. This was a gain in giving nationally of \$1,314.87, a gain in Conference giving of \$4,289.49, and a total gain of \$5,604.36 in 1974.

What's Happening To Willie West?

Willie Vest, 61, is retired from years of labor in the coal mines of Southwestern Virginia. He doesn't have much to show for it — a face and figure aged beyond his years, a weathered mountain shanty. But Willie has one thing more, an abiding concern to help his neighbors. For years he has collected pamphlets from state and federal welfare agencies. Whenever one of Willie's neighbors gets into a bureaucratic tangle, Willie is always ready to provide the information needed to solve the problem. Dignified, helpful, God-fearing — and desperately poor — Willie Vest and his neighbors live in what has been called "the nation's longest ghetto": Appalachia. Robbed of their economic independence and natural resources, sickened by black lung from the mines, gray lung from the mills, and a host of other diseases which prey on the weak, and the often unemployed, the people of Appalachia are victims of poor quality education, isolated and hungry, and largely ignored.

But for Willie Vest and for his neighbors in Appalachia there is now hope. In response to the appalling plight, the Commission on Religion in Appalachia (CORA) was formed in 1966. CORA is a coalition of 18 denominational and church-related agencies (including those at national, state, and local levels of the church) which is dedicated to developing strategies which will help people of this region to recover their human dignity and their right to self-determination through community organizations of their own choosing.

Through Morgan-Scott Project for Cooperative Christian Concerns, the Southeast Conference and the Robbins Parish, along with the Methodists and United Presbyterians, are bringing alert churches, doctors, dentists, nurses, libraries, and food to an area that has great need, physical and spiritual.

The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries contributes \$4,600 to CORA's administrative expenses and an additional \$5,000 to projects in Appalachia which are related to CORA. In addition, the Board will administer about \$10,000 of Family Thank Offering money which goes to Appalachian projects. The Southeast Conference and the Robbins Parish also share in these projects.

What's happening to Willie Vest? He and thousands of persons like him are finding a new hope and a new life. That's what's happening. And every time you give to Our Christian World Mission you help to make it happen.

County Meeting Studies "Global Living"

The third annual Randolph County meeting of the Congregational Christian Churches met at the New Hope Congregational Christian Church, the Rev. Olin Shepherd pastor, at six-thirty p. m., March 3, 1975, for a mission study.

Mrs. Olin Shepherd presided. The devotional was given by Miss Jo Ann Halsey, a teacher in the academy in LaFayette, Ala. Then Mrs. Joe French introduced Mrs. E. G. Adamson from the Bethany Church, who gave the Mission Study Book on "Global Living," by James Stewart. Mrs. Adamson ably reviewed the book, using visual aids and inserting timely remarks from other sources.

After the review, Mrs. Adamson was presented with a gift from the local church. Then the 90 people in attendance were invited to Fellowship Hall for dainty sandwiches, party cookies, and punch.

Twelve area churches were represented, ten of which were Congregational-Christian.

(Easter Poem Cont. from Pg. 1)

"It is our risen Lord—

"Our Master and our Lord!"

Then Simon girding his fisherman's coat
Went over the nets and out of the boat—
Aye! First of them all was he;
Repenting sore the dismal past,
He feared no longer his heart to cast
Like an anchor into the sea—
Down deep in the hungry sea.

And the others, through the mists so dim,
In the little ship came after him,
Drawing their nets through the tide;
And when they had gotten close to the land
The saw a fire of coals on the sand
And with His arms of love so wide,
Jesus the Crucified!

'Tis long, and long, and long ago
Since the rosy lights began to flow
O'er the hills of Galilee;
And with eager eyes and lifted hands
The seven fishers saw on the sands
The fire of coals by the sea—
On the wet, wild sands of the sea.

'Tis long ago, yet faith in our souls
Is kindled just by that fire of coals
That streamed o'er the mists of the sea,
When Peter, girding his fisherman's coat
Went over the nets and out of the boat,
To answer "Lovest thou Me?"
Thrice over, "Lovest thou Me?"

Return To Normal In Honduras



Dr. Joyce Baker at the Clinica Evangelica de Pinalejo.

Diminutive Joyce Baker has been our missionary doctor in Honduras for the past nine years. Dr. Baker is part of a clinic program working in preventive medicine and health care in Pinalejo and in isolated villages throughout the north coast area. Last autumn when Hurricane FiFi and its resultant floods struck Honduras, Joyce was on vacation in Ohio. She hurried back to Honduras on one of the first relief flights. There, she spent several days in the Red Cross emergency center in Choloma, one of the hardest hit towns. When the number of outside volunteers became adequate to cover the medical needs of all accessible areas, Joyce returned to her home in Pinalejo.

The Clinica Evangelica de Pinalejo offers comprehensive health care with the services of Dr. Baker, a pharmacy, prenatal care, and a baby clinic. Most recently, the clinic has been training girls from nearby isolated villages to become village health volunteers or mid-wives. The girls come to Pinalejo for four months of basic training and then return to their home villages. The Pinalejo Clinic follows up with supervisory visits and occasional refresher courses.

Honduras is slowly returning to normal after the terrible hurricane. But you through your OCBM gifts are helping that "normal" to be noticeably better.

Alumni Increase Support

Reports from Fisk, Tougaloo, and Talladega reflect a sizeable increase in alumni contributions in the present decade. From 1970 to 1973 the totals have increased as follows: Fisk 97 percent, Tougaloo 161 percent, Talladega 121 percent.

Excuses-Excuses -Excuses!

The Rev. Nat G. Long, a District Superintendent of the United Methodist Church, was for many years in the habit of collecting excuses, the kind that people offer for not attending church.

After about 21 years he thought he had collected them all, but then a little lady in the North Georgia mountains told him, "I don't go to church in the winter time because it's too cold, and I don't go in the summer time because I'm afraid of rattlesnakes." Although he was disappointed at the loss of the prospect, he was delighted to have a new excuse for his collection.

National Medical Association

The National Medical Association, an organization of black medical doctors, was founded at a meeting in the First Congregational Church in Atlanta, in 1895. Many of the first members were graduates of A. M. A. colleges. At a national meeting of the association in 1972, again held in the same church, a plaque was placed in the church commemorating the founding of the society.

Ministers Convocation At Sumatanga May 5 - 7

Ministers of the Southeast Conference and their wives will meet again at beautiful Camp Sumatanga, Gallant, Alabama, May 5-7, for their Annual Convocation.

Besides the usual experience of getting acquainted and good fellowship, a presentation will be made of the new curriculum for Church School use.

Chairpersons of Program Committee are Rev. and Mrs. Stephen Gray, Nashville, Tenn.



Camp Sumatanga, Gallant, Ala.